REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 – 6 are now in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 6 has been added.

Support for the claim changes is found in the original claim 1 and on page 5 of the specification. Further support is found in the drawing figures. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to further emphasize the fact that the "first start bit" differs from the "second start bit" and that the "command words" have different lengths. Claim 6 recites the invention in alternative language.

We now turn to the art rejection, in which claims 1-5 have been rejected as being anticipated by Raje et al. (US 5,881,260, "Raje") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). We respectfully traverse.

Raje deals with instructions of different lengths. These instructions are divided into equal length words. Each instruction word begins with a given start bit and the instruction as such begins with another start bit. As the command words are all of equal length, the problem of dealing with different-length words is no issue in Raje. That is, command words of mutually different lengths are not utilized by Raje.

The reference Raje, therefore, does not anticipate the invention defined in claims 1 and/or 6. Anticipation is established only when a single prior art reference discloses, expressly or under the principles of inherency, each and every element of a claimed

invention as well as disclosing structure which is capable of performing the recited functional limitations. RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Sys., Inc., 730 F.2d 1440, 221 USPQ 385 (Fed. Cir. 1984). W.L. Gore and Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc., 721 F.2d 1540, 1554, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983). In other words, a claim is anticipated if a single reference, either expressly or inherently, discloses every limitation of the claim at issue. In re Schreiber, 128 F.3d 1473 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Returning once more to Raje, there is shown a system that decodes "variable length instructions in a processor." Abstract, lines 1-2. Raje detects the "length of a current instruction . . . by detecting the position of the next instruction boundary in the start bits in the first register." Abstract, lines 9-11. The reference illustrates in Fig. 2 that each instruction has a defined instruction boundary that is defined by the value of a start bit. Each instruction includes at least the following sequence:

- **start bit** – indicating a start of an instruction word. When the start bit is "0" then the word is simply a continuation of the current instruction. A start bit of "1" indicates the beginning of a new instruction;
- **"pos" field** – indicating the functional unit to which the current instruction belongs; and
- **word field** – one or more of the word fields make up the instruction, including opcode, operand and data for the respective functional unit.

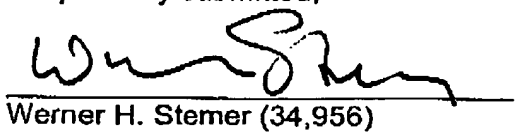
Each of the fields has a predetermined length and, in particular, the word field has a set length which is not varied. Only the instruction length is varied by "stringing" several of the forgoing sequences, each including a start bit, a pos field, and word field.

The concept underlying the claimed invention is entirely different. Here, we deal with command words that may have different lengths. In order for the command address pointer to address the beginning of the command word, the start bit is tested. When the start bit indicates that the pointer landed in the middle of the command word (start bit "0"), an error message is issued. When the start bit is tested and the "correct" start bit is found (start bit "1"), then the command is accepted as having been entered at the correct address.

The claimed invention is neither anticipated by, nor obvious over, the prior art of record. None of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 6. These claims are, therefore, patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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